

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1207
By McKee

A RESOLUTION to commend Burkett L. Witt for his honorable
and astute service to the people of Tennessee
and the City of Athens.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to
specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to
improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Burkett Witt of Athens is one such estimable person who evinces the
greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary 33-year tenure as a member of the Athens City
Council, Mr. Witt has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and
as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, first elected on June 28, 1971, Mr. Witt has served eight consecutive terms,
having won reelection in 1975, 1979, 1983, 1987, 1991, 1995 and 2000; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure on the Council, Burkett Witt served as Mayor of Athens
from 1983 to 1985 and Vice Mayor from 1991 to 1993 in addition to serving on numerous
boards and commissions, including the Athens Regional Planning Commission and the Board of
Zoning Appeals; he currently represents the Council on the Athens Utilities Board; and

WHEREAS, a native son of Athens, born on May 26, 1926, Mr. Witt became a
successful businessman in the restaurant/catering industry beginning in the 1940's; he was the
owner/operator of Burkett's BAR-B-Q from 1975 until his retirement in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Witt's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly
attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his
uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Burkett Witt is a an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, an active volunteer with the Boy Scout program throughout the community, Mr. Witt is a standing member/past board member of the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Trustee Board of Directors, Tennessee Wesleyan College, a member of the board of the McMinn County Senior Citizens; and Honorary Member of the Athens Kiwanis Club; and

WHEREAS, a deeply spiritual man, Burkett Witt is an active member of AME Zion Church, where he serves as Chairman of the Trustee Board, a member of local Lay Council and Treasurer of the Tennessee District Lay Council; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Witt is thankful for the love and companionship he shared with his late wife, Mildred, who has passed on to her great reward; their joyous union produced their three children, Harold, Gwendolyn and Bryan; he is the proud grandfather of six grandchildren and three great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Burkett Witt is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Mr. Burkett L. Witt for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as member of the Athens City Council and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.